



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 18 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7015 0640 0001 0675 5470

Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
Attn: Mr. Ronald S. Anastasio, Executive Director
50 Polhemus Lane
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Re: Notice of Violation: EPA Docket No. CAA-02-2016-1307

Dear Mr. Anastasio:

Pursuant to Section 113(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act ("CAA"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(1), Region 2 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issues the enclosed Notice of Violation ("NOV") to the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority ("SRVSA"). The NOV identifies SRVSA's violations of Title I of the CAA and implementing regulations under 40 C.F.R. Part 62, Subpart LLL ("Subpart LLL"). EPA acknowledges that SRVSA is not currently operating its sewage sludge incineration units and appreciates that the Authority has initiated discussions regarding compliance with Subpart LLL.

If SRVSA would like to schedule a conference to discuss the NOV, please have your legal counsel contact Anhthu Hoang, Assistant Regional Counsel, at hoang.anhthu@epa.gov, within ten days of your receipt of this letter and the enclosed NOV. Should you have technical questions please contact Phillip Ritz, Environmental Engineer, at ritz.phillip@epa.gov or Joseph Cardile, Environmental Engineer, at cardile.joseph@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

for Katherin Mahe-Bogus

Dore LaPosta, Director
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

Enclosure: Notice of Violation

cc: Richelle Wormley, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Chris Odgers, Manager, Bureau of Air Compliance & Enforcement-Central

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority

SRVSA Wastewater Treatment Facility
50 Polhemus Lane
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Proceeding under Section 113
of the Clean Air Act

CAA-02-2016-1307

I. Summary

The Director of the Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance ("DECA") for the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") Region 2 issues this Notice of Violation ("NOV") to the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority ("SRVSA" or "Respondent") pursuant to Sections 111(d) and 113 of the Clean Air Act ("CAA" or "the Act"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 7411(d) and 7413. This NOV describes EPA's findings that SRVSA has violated requirements of 40 C.F.R. 62 Subpart LLL, "Federal Plan Requirements for Sewage Sludge Incineration Units Constructed on or Before October 14, 2010" and provides notice to SRVSA of such findings.

II. Statutory and Regulatory Background

1. Whenever "person" is used in the Act, the term includes an individual, corporation, partnership, association, state, municipality, political subdivision of a State, and any agency, department, or instrumentality of the United States and any officer, agent, or employee thereof.

2. Under the authority of Section 111(d) and Section 129(b)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7411(d) and 7429(b)(3), EPA has established a federal plan for the control of emissions from existing sewage sludge incineration (“SSI”) units in states that have not submitted an approvable state plan. The federal plan is found at 40 CFR Part 62, Subpart LLL (“Subpart LLL”). See 81 Fed. Reg. 26039 (April 29, 2016).

3. The State of New Jersey has not submitted an approvable state plan for the control of emissions from SSI units. The federal plan became effective May 31, 2016.

40 C.F.R. 62 Subpart LLL

4. Under Subpart LLL, owners and operators of subject SSI units must complete various actions by or before the compliance date of March 21, 2016, including but not limited to:

- a. submitting a final control plan and achieve final compliance as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 62.15875;
- b. submitting a site-specific monitoring plan that meet the requirements under 40 C.F.R. § 62.15995, at least 60 days before March 21, 2016 as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 62.16030;
- c. conducting an initial air pollution control device inspection as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 62.15990;
- d. demonstrating compliance with the applicable emission limits specified in Table 2 or 3 (40 C.F.R. §§ 62.15955 and 62.1600);
- e. setting and meeting the applicable operating limits as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 62.15960.
- f. documenting compliance with the operator training and qualification as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 62.15920.

EPA's Authority to Issue NOVs

5. Section 113 of the Act provides that whenever EPA finds that any person has violated or is in violation of a requirement or prohibition of the CAA, the Administrator shall notify the person and the state in which the plan applies of such finding. Section 113(a)(1) further provides that after 30 days of providing such notice, the EPA Administrator may take various actions to address the violation(s).

6. Pursuant to EPA Delegation of Authority 7-6-A and EPA Region 2 Delegation of Authority 7-6-A, the authority to make findings of violation and to issue notices of violation under Section 113 of the CAA has been delegated to the Director of DECA by the EPA Administrator through the EPA Region 2 Regional Administrator.

III. Findings of Fact

7. SRVSA owns and operates two fluidized bed SSI units as part of the SRVSA Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is located at 50 Polhemus Lane in Bridgewater, New Jersey (the "Facility").

8. SRVSA is a municipal authority organized under the public authority law of the State of New Jersey.

9. The Facility is a municipal wastewater treatment facility that accepts and treats wastewater from 7 municipalities within Somerset County.

10. The Facility also accepts sludge and septage from other sources throughout the County.

11. The Facility was constructed before October 14, 2010.

12. The compliance date for a facility subject to the requirements of Subpart LLL was March 21, 2016.

13. SRVSA has not submitted to EPA a notification as required by 40 C.F.R. § 62.15915 that the Facility would be closed permanently by March 21, 2016.
14. The Facility has not been closed permanently.
15. SRVSA has not submitted a final control plan that achieves final compliance as required by 40 C.F.R. § 62.15875.
16. SRVSA has not submitted to EPA a site-specific monitoring plan as required by 40 C.F.R. § 62.15995.
17. SRVSA has not demonstrated that it conducted an initial air pollution control device inspection as required by 40 C.F.R. § 62.15990.
18. SRVSA has not demonstrated that it is in compliance with the applicable emission limits specified in Table 2 or 3 (40 C.F.R. §§ 62.15955 and 62.1600).
19. SRVSA has not demonstrated that it set and met the applicable operating limits as required in 40 C.F.R. § 62.15960.
20. SRVSA has not documented that it is in compliance with the operator training and qualification as required in 40 C.F.R. § 62.15920.
21. On April 8, 2016, SRVSA met with EPA in order to discuss its compliance with 40 C.F.R. § 62.15895.
22. The EPA notified SRVSA, at the April 8, 2016 meeting, that the EPA had determined that the Facility is in violation with Subpart LLL.

IV. Conclusions of Law

Based on the Finding of Fact set forth above, EPA reaches the following conclusions of law:

23. SRVSA is a "person" as defined under Section 302 of the Act.
24. The Facility is subject to Subpart LLL.
25. SRVSA did not comply by the compliance date of March 21, 2016 and continues to be out of compliance with Subpart LLL.

26. Specifically, SRVSA is in violation with the following provisions under 40 C.F.R.

Part 62, Subpart LLL:

- a. submitting a final control plan and achieve final compliance
(40 C.F.R. § 62.15875);
 - b. submitting a site-specific monitoring plan, that meet the requirements under
40 C.F.R. § 62.15995, at least 60 days before March 21, 2016
(40 C.F.R. § 62.16030);
 - c. conducting an initial air pollution control device inspection
(40 C.F.R. § 62.15990);
 - d. demonstrating compliance with the applicable emission limits specified in Table 2
or 3 (40 C.F.R. §§ 62.15955 and 62.1600);
 - e. setting and meeting the applicable operating limits (40 C.F.R. § 62.15960);
 - f. documenting compliance with operator training and qualification
(40 C.F.R. § 62.15920).
27. Accordingly, SRVSA has violated and continues to violate the above referenced provisions within Subpart LLL.

V. Enforcement

Section 113 of the CAA authorizes EPA to take any of the following actions in response to a respondent's violation(s) of a federal plan issued under the CAA, after the expiration of 30 days following the issuance of a notice of violation:

- Issue an order requiring compliance with the requirements or prohibitions of the Act;
- Issue an administrative penalty order in accordance with CAA Section 113(d); or
- Bring a civil action in accordance with CAA Section 113(b) for civil penalties and/or injunctive relief.

Furthermore, for any person who knowingly violates any requirement or prohibition of an applicable implementation plan under Section 129 of the Act (relating to solid waste combustion) for more than thirty (30) days after the date of the issuance of an NOV, Section 113(c) of the Act provides for criminal penalties or imprisonment, or both. In addition, under Section 306 of the Act, the regulations promulgated thereunder (40 C.F.R. Part 15), and Executive Order 11738, facilities to be utilized in federal contracts, grants and loans must be in full compliance with the Act and all regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. Violation of the Act may result in the subject facility, or other facilities owned or operated by Respondent, being declared ineligible for participation in any federal contract, grant, or loan program.

The issuance of this NOV does not preclude EPA from electing to pursue any other remedies or sanctions authorized by law to address the violations described herein.

VI. Penalty Assessment Criteria

Section 113(e)(1) of the Act provides that if a penalty is assessed pursuant to Section 113 of the Act, EPA or the court, as appropriate, shall, in determining the amount of the penalty to be assessed, take into consideration the size of the business, the economic impact of the penalty on

the business, the violator's full compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, the duration of the violation as established by any credible evidence (including evidence other than the applicable test method), payment by the violator of penalties previously assessed for the same violation, the economic benefit of noncompliance, the seriousness of the violation, and other factors as justice may require.

Section 113(e)(2) of the Act allows EPA or the court, as appropriate, to assess a penalty for each day of violation. In accordance with Section 113(e)(2) of the Act, EPA will consider a violation to continue from the date the violation began until the date Respondent establishes that it has achieved continuous compliance. If Respondent proves that there was an intermittent day of compliance or that the violation was not continuous in nature, EPA will reduce the penalty accordingly.

VII. Opportunity for a Conference

SRVSA may request a conference with EPA concerning the violation(s) alleged in this NOV. This conference will enable Respondent to present evidence regarding the findings of violation, the nature of the violation, and any efforts it may have made or it proposes to make to achieve compliance. Respondent's request for a conference must be confirmed in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of this NOV. The request for a conference, or other inquiries concerning this NOV, should be made by email to hoang.anhthu@epa.gov or in writing to:

Anhthu Hoang, Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2
Office of Regional Counsel – Air Branch
290 Broadway – 16th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Notwithstanding this NOV and the opportunity for conference, Respondent must comply with all applicable requirements of the CAA.

Issued: July 18, 2016

For Heather Mahe - Bogues

Dore LaPosta, Director
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency- Region 2

To: Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
Attn: Mr. Ronald S. Anastasio, Executive Director
50 Polhemus Lane
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

cc: Richelle Wormley, Director,
Division of Air Enforcement, NJDEP

Chris Odgers, Manager,
Central Field Office, NJDEP

Enclosure 2

CAA § 113

§ 7413.

(a) In general

(1) Order to comply with SIP

Whenever, on the basis of any information available to the Administrator, the Administrator finds that any person has violated or is in violation of any requirement or prohibition of an applicable implementation plan or permit, the Administrator shall notify the person and the State in which the plan applies of such finding. At any time after the expiration of 30 days following the date on which such notice of a violation is issued, the Administrator may, without regard to the period of violation (subject to section 2462 of title 28)—

- (A) issue an order requiring such person to comply with the requirements or prohibitions of such plan or permit,
- (B) issue an administrative penalty order in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, or
- (C) bring a civil action in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(2) State failure to enforce SIP or permit program

Whenever, on the basis of information available to the Administrator, the Administrator finds that violations of an applicable implementation plan or an approved permit program under subchapter V of this chapter are so widespread that such violations appear to result from a failure of the State in which the plan or permit program applies to enforce the plan or permit program effectively, the Administrator shall so notify the State. In the case of a permit program, the notice shall be made in accordance with subchapter V of this chapter. If the Administrator finds such failure extends beyond the 30th day after such notice (90 days in the case of such permit program), the Administrator shall give public notice of such finding. During the period beginning with such public notice and ending when such State satisfies the Administrator that it will enforce such plan or permit program (hereafter referred to in this section as "period of federally assumed enforcement"), the Administrator may enforce any requirement or prohibition of such plan or permit program with respect to any person by—

- (A) issuing an order requiring such person to comply with such requirement or prohibition,

- (B) issuing an administrative penalty order in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, or
- (C) bringing a civil action in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(3) EPA enforcement of other requirements

Except for a requirement or prohibition enforceable under the preceding provisions of this subsection, whenever, on the basis of any information available to the Administrator, the Administrator finds that any person has violated, or is in violation of, any other requirement or prohibition of this subchapter, section 7603 of this title, subchapter IV-A, subchapter V, or subchapter VI of this chapter, including, but not limited to, a requirement or prohibition of any rule, plan, order, waiver, or permit promulgated, issued, or approved under those provisions or subchapters, or for the payment of any fee owed to the United States under this chapter (other than subchapter II of this chapter), the Administrator may—

- (A) issue an administrative penalty order in accordance with subsection (d) of this section,
- (B) issue an order requiring such person to comply with such requirement or prohibition,
- (C) bring a civil action in accordance with subsection (b) of this section or section 7605 of this title, or
- (D) request the Attorney General to commence a criminal action in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(4) Requirements for orders

An order issued under this subsection (other than an order relating to a violation of section 7412 of this title) shall not take effect until the person to whom it is issued has had an opportunity to confer with the Administrator concerning the alleged violation. A copy of any order issued under this subsection shall be sent to the State air pollution control agency of any State in which the violation occurs. Any order issued under this subsection shall state with reasonable specificity the nature of the violation and specify a time for compliance which the Administrator determines is reasonable, taking into account the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements. In any case in which an order under this subsection (or notice to a violator under paragraph (1)) is issued to a corporation, a copy of such order (or notice) shall be issued to

appropriate corporate officers. An order issued under this subsection shall require the person to whom it was issued to comply with the requirement as expeditiously as practicable, but in no event longer than one year after the date the order was issued, and shall be nonrenewable. No order issued under this subsection shall prevent the State or the Administrator from assessing any penalties nor otherwise affect or limit the State's or the United States authority to enforce under other provisions of this chapter, nor affect any person's obligations to comply with any section of this chapter or with a term or condition of any permit or applicable implementation plan promulgated or approved under this chapter.

(5) Failure to comply with new source requirements

Whenever, on the basis of any available information, the Administrator finds that a State is not acting in compliance with any requirement or prohibition of the chapter relating to the construction of new sources or the modification of existing sources, the Administrator may—

- (A) issue an order prohibiting the construction or modification of any major stationary source in any area to which such requirement applies; ^{III}
- (B) issue an administrative penalty order in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, or
- (C) bring a civil action under subsection (b) of this section.

Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the United States from commencing a criminal action under subsection (c) of this section at any time for any such violation.

(b) Civil judicial enforcement

The Administrator shall, as appropriate, in the case of any person that is the owner or operator of an affected source, a major emitting facility, or a major stationary source, and may, in the case of any other person, commence a civil action for a permanent or temporary injunction, or to assess and recover a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 per day for each violation, or both, in any of the following instances:

- (1) Whenever such person has violated, or is in violation of, any requirement or prohibition of an applicable implementation plan or permit. Such an action shall be commenced
 - (A) during any period of federally assumed enforcement, or
 - (B) more than 30 days following the date of the Administrator's notification under subsection (a)(1) of this section that such

person has violated, or is in violation of, such requirement or prohibition.

- (2) Whenever such person has violated, or is in violation of, any other requirement or prohibition of this subchapter, section 7603 of this title, subchapter IV-A, subchapter V, or subchapter VI of this chapter, including, but not limited to, a requirement or prohibition of any rule, order, waiver or permit promulgated, issued, or approved under this chapter, or for the payment of any fee owed the United States under this chapter (other than subchapter II of this chapter).
- (3) Whenever such person attempts to construct or modify a major stationary source in any area with respect to which a finding under subsection (a)(5) of this section has been made.

Any action under this subsection may be brought in the district court of the United States for the district in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, or is occurring, or in which the defendant resides, or where the defendant's principal place of business is located, and such court shall have jurisdiction to restrain such violation, to require compliance, to assess such civil penalty, to collect any fees owed the United States under this chapter (other than subchapter II of this chapter) and any noncompliance assessment and nonpayment penalty owed under section 7420 of this title, and to award any other appropriate relief. Notice of the commencement of such action shall be given to the appropriate State air pollution control agency. In the case of any action brought by the Administrator under this subsection, the court may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to the party or parties against whom such action was brought if the court finds that such action was unreasonable.

(c) Criminal penalties

- (1) Any person who knowingly violates any requirement or prohibition of an applicable implementation plan (during any period of federally assumed enforcement or more than 30 days after having been notified under subsection (a)(1) of this section by the Administrator that such person is violating such requirement or prohibition), any order under subsection (a) of this section, requirement or prohibition of section 7411 (e) of this title (relating to new source performance standards), section 7412 of this title, section 7414 of this title (relating to inspections, etc.), section 7429 of this title (relating to solid waste combustion), section 7475 (a) of this title (relating to

preconstruction requirements), an order under section 7477 of this title (relating to preconstruction requirements), an order under section 7603 of this title (relating to emergency orders), section 7661a (a) or 7661b (c) of this title (relating to permits), or any requirement or prohibition of subchapter IV-A of this chapter (relating to acid deposition control), or subchapter VI of this chapter (relating to stratospheric ozone control), including a requirement of any rule, order, waiver, or permit promulgated or approved under such sections or subchapters, and including any requirement for the payment of any fee owed the United States under this chapter (other than subchapter II of this chapter) shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine pursuant to title 18 or by imprisonment for not to exceed 5 years, or both. If a conviction of any person under this paragraph is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, the maximum punishment shall be doubled with respect to both the fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any person who knowingly—

- (A) makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in, or omits material information from, or knowingly alters, conceals, or fails to file or maintain any notice, application, record, report, plan, or other document required pursuant to this chapter to be either filed or maintained (whether with respect to the requirements imposed by the Administrator or by a State);
- (B) fails to notify or report as required under this chapter; or
- (C) falsifies, tampers with, renders inaccurate, or fails to install any monitoring device or method required to be maintained or followed under this chapter⁽²⁾

shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine pursuant to title 18 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both. If a conviction of any person under this paragraph is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, the maximum punishment shall be doubled with respect to both the fine and imprisonment.

- (3) Any person who knowingly fails to pay any fee owed the United States under this subchapter, subchapter III, IV-A, V, or VI of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine pursuant to title 18 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or

both. If a conviction of any person under this paragraph is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, the maximum punishment shall be doubled with respect to both the fine and imprisonment.

- (4) Any person who negligently releases into the ambient air any hazardous air pollutant listed pursuant to section 7412 of this title or any extremely hazardous substance listed pursuant to section 11002 (a)(2) of this title that is not listed in section 7412 of this title, and who at the time negligently places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine under title 18 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. If a conviction of any person under this paragraph is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, the maximum punishment shall be doubled with respect to both the fine and imprisonment.

(5)

- (A) Any person who knowingly releases into the ambient air any hazardous air pollutant listed pursuant to section 7412 of this title or any extremely hazardous substance listed pursuant to section 11002 (a)(2) of this title that is not listed in section 7412 of this title, and who knows at the time that he thereby places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine under title 18 or by imprisonment of not more than 15 years, or both. Any person committing such violation which is an organization shall, upon conviction under this paragraph, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 for each violation. If a conviction of any person under this paragraph is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, the maximum punishment shall be doubled with respect to both the fine and imprisonment. For any air pollutant for which the Administrator has set an emissions standard or for any source for which a permit has been issued under subchapter V of this chapter, a release of such pollutant in accordance with that standard or permit shall not constitute a violation of this paragraph or paragraph (4).

- (B) In determining whether a defendant who is an individual knew that the violation

placed another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury—

- (i) the defendant is responsible only for actual awareness or actual belief possessed; and
- (ii) knowledge possessed by a person other than the defendant, but not by the defendant, may not be attributed to the defendant;

except that in proving a defendant's possession of actual knowledge, circumstantial evidence may be used, including evidence that the defendant took affirmative steps to be shielded from relevant information.

- (C) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution that the conduct charged was freely consented to by the person endangered and that the danger and conduct charged were reasonably foreseeable hazards of—

- (i) an occupation, a business, or a profession; or
- (ii) medical treatment or medical or scientific experimentation conducted by professionally approved methods and such other person had been made aware of the risks involved prior to giving consent.

The defendant may establish an affirmative defense under this subparagraph by a preponderance of the evidence.

- (D) All general defenses, affirmative defenses, and bars to prosecution that may apply with respect to other Federal criminal offenses may apply under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and shall be determined by the courts of the United States according to the principles of common law as they may be interpreted in the light of reason and experience. Concepts of justification and excuse applicable under this section may be developed in the light of reason and experience.

- (E) The term "organization" means a legal entity, other than a government, established or organized for any purpose, and such term includes a corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, joint stock company, foundation, institution, trust, society, union, or any other association of persons.

- (F) The term "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

- (6) For the purpose of this subsection, the term "person" includes, in addition to the entities referred to in section 7602 (e) of this title, any responsible corporate officer.

(d) Administrative assessment of civil penalties

- (1) The Administrator may issue an administrative order against any person assessing a civil administrative penalty of up to \$25,000, per day of violation, whenever, on the basis of any available information, the Administrator finds that such person—

- (A) has violated or is violating any requirement or prohibition of an applicable implementation plan (such order shall be issued

- (i) during any period of federally assumed enforcement, or

- (ii) more than thirty days following the date of the Administrator's notification under subsection (a)(1) of this section of a finding that such person has violated or is violating such requirement or prohibition); or

- (B) has violated or is violating any other requirement or prohibition of this subchapter or subchapter III, IV-A, V, or VI of this chapter, including, but not limited to, a requirement or prohibition of any rule, order, waiver, permit, or plan promulgated, issued, or approved under this chapter, or for the payment of any fee owed the United States under this chapter (other than subchapter II of this chapter); or

- (C) attempts to construct or modify a major stationary source in any area with respect to which a finding under subsection (a)(5) of this section has been made.

The Administrator's authority under this paragraph shall be limited to matters where the total penalty sought does not exceed \$200,000 and the first alleged date of violation occurred no more than 12 months prior to the initiation of the administrative action, except where the Administrator and the Attorney General jointly determine that a matter involving a larger penalty amount or longer period of violation is appropriate for administrative penalty action.

Any such determination by the Administrator and the Attorney General shall not be subject to judicial review.

(2)

(A) An administrative penalty assessed under paragraph (1) shall be assessed by the Administrator by an order made after opportunity for a hearing on the record in accordance with sections 554 and 556 of title 5. The Administrator shall issue reasonable rules for discovery and other procedures for hearings under this paragraph. Before issuing such an order, the Administrator shall give written notice to the person to be assessed an administrative penalty of the Administrator's proposal to issue such order and provide such person an opportunity to request such a hearing on the order, within 30 days of the date the notice is received by such person.

(B) The Administrator may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any administrative penalty which may be imposed under this subsection.

(3) The Administrator may implement, after consultation with the Attorney General and the States, a field citation program through regulations establishing appropriate minor violations for which field citations assessing civil penalties not to exceed \$5,000 per day of violation may be issued by officers or employees designated by the Administrator. Any person to whom a field citation is assessed may, within a reasonable time as prescribed by the Administrator through regulation, elect to pay the penalty assessment or to request a hearing on the field citation. If a request for a hearing is not made within the time specified in the regulation, the penalty assessment in the field citation shall be final. Such hearing shall not be subject to section 554 or 556 of title 5, but shall provide a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present evidence. Payment of a civil penalty required by a field citation shall not be a defense to further enforcement by the United States or a State to correct a violation, or to assess the statutory maximum penalty pursuant to other authorities in the chapter, if the violation continues.

(4) Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under paragraph (3) of this subsection or to whom an administrative penalty order is issued under paragraph (1) of

this subsection may seek review of such assessment in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or for the district in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, in which such person resides, or where such person's principal place of business is located, by filing in such court within 30 days following the date the administrative penalty order becomes final under paragraph (2), the assessment becomes final under paragraph (3), or a final decision following a hearing under paragraph (3) is rendered, and by simultaneously sending a copy of the filing by certified mail to the Administrator and the Attorney General. Within 30 days thereafter, the Administrator shall file in such court a certified copy, or certified index, as appropriate, of the record on which the administrative penalty order or assessment was issued. Such court shall not set aside or remand such order or assessment unless there is not substantial evidence in the record, taken as a whole, to support the finding of a violation or unless the order or penalty assessment constitutes an abuse of discretion. Such order or penalty assessment shall not be subject to review by any court except as provided in this paragraph. In any such proceedings, the United States may seek to recover civil penalties ordered or assessed under this section.

(5) If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty or fails to comply with an administrative penalty order—

(A) after the order or assessment has become final, or

(B) after a court in an action brought under paragraph (4) has entered a final judgment in favor of the Administrator,

the Administrator shall request the Attorney General to bring a civil action in an appropriate district court to enforce the order or to recover the amount ordered or assessed (plus interest at rates established pursuant to section 6621 (a)(2) of title 26 from the date of the final order or decision or the date of the final judgment, as the case may be). In such an action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of such order or assessment shall not be subject to review. Any person who fails to pay on a timely basis a civil penalty ordered or assessed under this section shall be required to pay, in addition to such penalty and interest, the United States enforcement expenses, including but not limited to

attorneys fees and costs incurred by the United States for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be 10 percent of the aggregate amount of such person's outstanding penalties and nonpayment penalties accrued as of the beginning of such quarter.

(e) **Penalty assessment criteria**

- (1) In determining the amount of any penalty to be assessed under this section or section 7604 (a) of this title, the Administrator or the court, as appropriate, shall take into consideration (in addition to such other factors as justice may require) the size of the business, the economic impact of the penalty on the business, the violator's full compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, the duration of the violation as established by any credible evidence (including evidence other than the applicable test method), payment by the violator of penalties previously assessed for the same violation, the economic benefit of noncompliance, and the seriousness of the violation. The court shall not assess penalties for noncompliance with administrative subpoenas under section 7607 (a) of this title, or actions under section 7414 of this title, where the violator had sufficient cause to violate or fail or refuse to comply with such subpoena or action.
- (2) A penalty may be assessed for each day of violation. For purposes of determining the number of days of violation for which a penalty may be assessed under subsection (b) or (d)(1) of this section, or section 7604 (a) of this title, or an assessment may be made under section 7420 of this title, where the Administrator or an air pollution control agency has notified the source of the violation, and the plaintiff makes a prima facie showing that the conduct or events giving rise to the violation are likely to have continued or recurred past the date of notice, the days of violation shall be presumed to include the date of such notice and each and every day thereafter until the violator establishes that continuous compliance has been achieved, except to the extent that the violator can prove by a preponderance of the evidence that there were intervening days during which no violation occurred or that the violation was not continuing in nature.

(f) **Awards**

The Administrator may pay an award, not to exceed \$10,000, to any person who furnishes information or services which lead to a criminal conviction or a judicial or administrative civil penalty for any violation of this subchapter or subchapter III, IV-A, V, or VI of this chapter enforced under this section. Such payment is subject to available appropriations for such purposes as provided in annual appropriation Acts. Any officer,⁽³⁾ or employee of the United States or any State or local government who furnishes information or renders service in the performance of an official duty is ineligible for payment under this subsection. The Administrator may, by regulation, prescribe additional criteria for eligibility for such an award.

(g) **Settlements; public participation**

At least 30 days before a consent order or settlement agreement of any kind under this chapter to which the United States is a party (other than enforcement actions under this section, section 7420 of this title, or subchapter II of this chapter, whether or not involving civil or criminal penalties, or judgments subject to Department of Justice policy on public participation) is final or filed with a court, the Administrator shall provide a reasonable opportunity by notice in the Federal Register to persons who are not named as parties or intervenors to the action or matter to comment in writing. The Administrator or the Attorney General, as appropriate, shall promptly consider any such written comments and may withdraw or withhold his consent to the proposed order or agreement if the comments disclose facts or considerations which indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter. Nothing in this subsection shall apply to civil or criminal penalties under this chapter.

(h) **Operator**

For purposes of the provisions of this section and section 7420 of this title, the term "operator", as used in such provisions, shall include any person who is senior management personnel or a corporate officer. Except in the case of knowing and willful violations, such term shall not include any person who is a stationary engineer or technician responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, or monitoring of equipment and facilities and who often has supervisory and training duties but who is not senior management personnel or a corporate officer. Except in the case of knowing and willful violations, for purposes of subsection (c)(4) of this section, the term "a person" shall not include an employee who is carrying out his normal activities and who is not a part of senior management personnel or a

corporate officer. Except in the case of knowing and willful violations, for purposes of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (5) of subsection (c) of this section the term "a person" shall not include an employee who is carrying out his normal activities and who is acting under orders from the employer.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON **July 20, 2016**, I MAILED A TRUE COPY OF THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT BY **CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, **ARTICLE NUMBERS 7015-0640-0001-0675-5470** POSTAGE PRE-PAID, UPON THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S):

**Mr. Ronald S. Anastasio, Executive Director
Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
50 Polhemus Lane
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807**



Geraldo Villaran

